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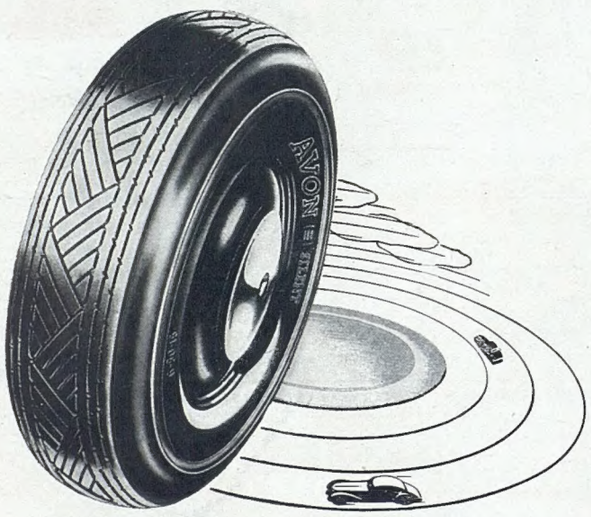

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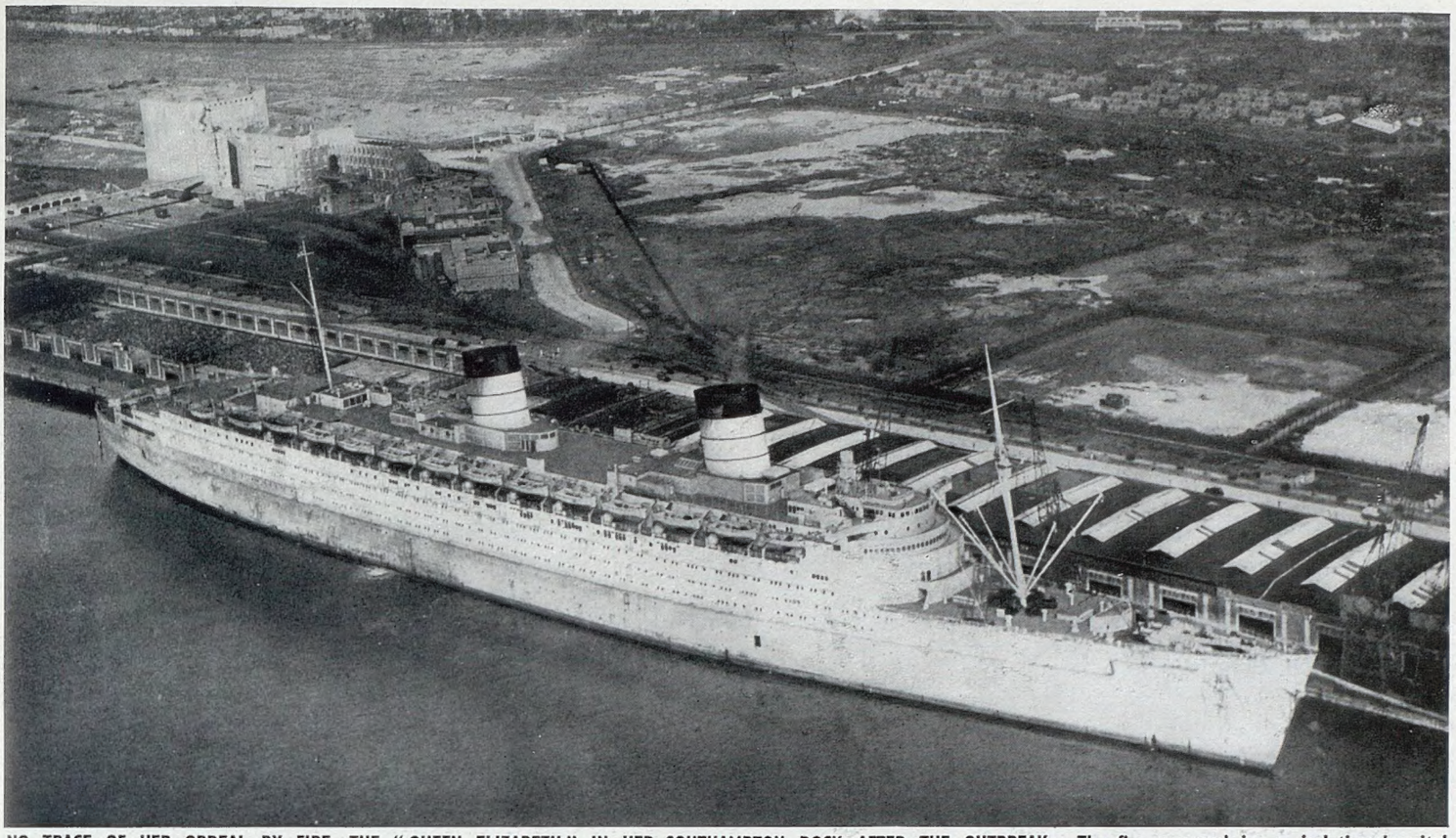
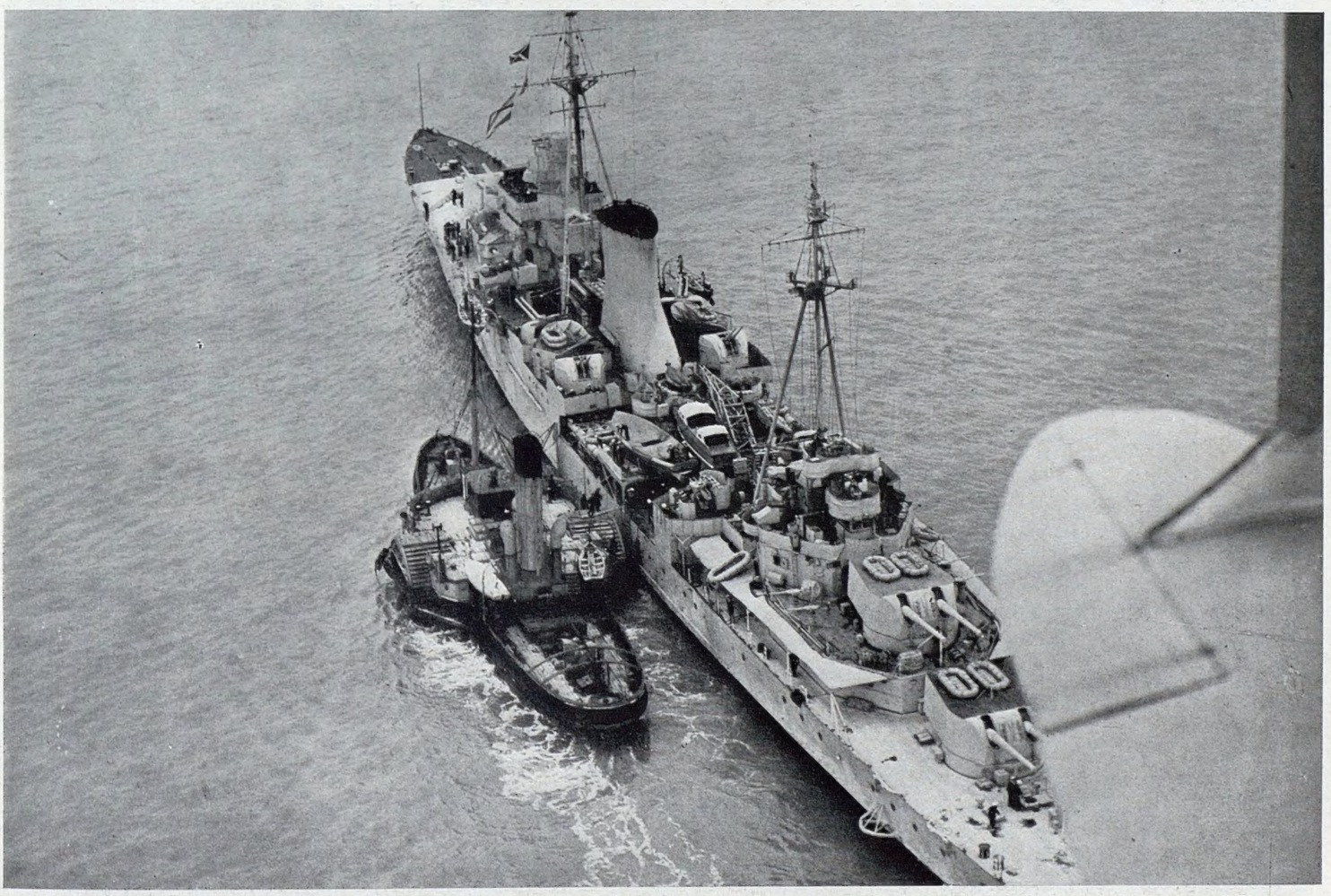


NO TRACE OF HER ORDEAL BY FIRE—THE "QUEEN ELIZABETH" IN HER SOUTHAMPTON DOCK AFTER THE OUTBREAK: The fire occurred in an isolation hospital on the promenade deck and it took two hours to subdue

The "QUEEN ELIZABETH" FIRE

Inquiries into the cause of the fire which destroyed part of the isolation hospital in the liner *Queen Elizabeth* have been in the hands of the C.I.D., and since the outbreak they have questioned many of the men who are at work converting the ship from a troop transport to a liner. In addition, Dr. J. B. Firth, a Home Office expert on arson and incendiarism, has been called in to help. More than eight hundred people are working in the ship about three hundred of them having come from northern ports. The fire broke out at about 9 o'clock on March 8, and thanks to the promptitude of two of the ship's crew in giving the alarm, a major disaster was prevented. A widespread alarm brought fire brigades from towns twenty miles away



A HEROINE COMES HOME—H.M.S. "AJAX" TAKING ON THE PILOT AT SHEPPEY: The cruiser in the Medway Estuary before entering the port of Chatham

RETURN OF THE "AJAX"

H.M.S. *Ajax*, the 6,985-ton 6-in.-gun cruiser, which fought with such distinction in the battle of the River Plate, arrived at Chatham last Saturday after escorting 845 members of the crew of the German pocket-battleship *Graf Spee* from South America in the S.S. *Highland Monarch*. Also on board the *Highland Monarch* were eight of the 285 wives married to members of the crew during internment. The war record of the *Ajax* has been magnificent, but her greatest battle was in 1940 when, in company with the *Achilles*, she closed with the German battleship to complete the work of destruction wrought by the *Exeter*

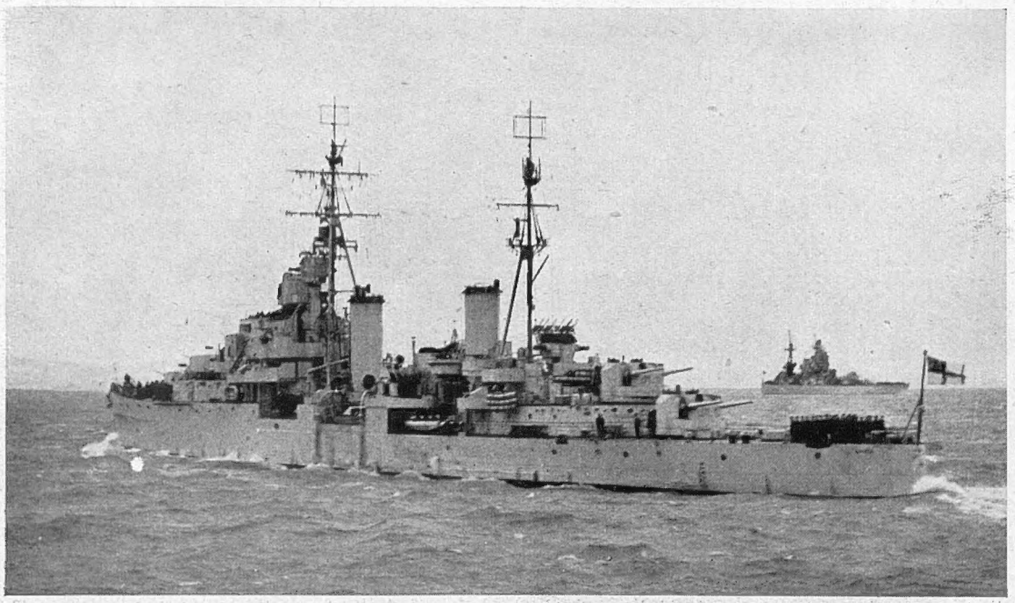
THE HOME FLEET SAILS

On the First Peacetime Cruise Since the War

—Pictures Taken at Portland Harbour

BACK TO HER OLD DUTIES AS FLAGSHIP OF THE HOME FLEET, THE TWENTY-YEAR-OLD BATTLESHIP "NELSON" LEAVES PORTLAND SOON AFTER DAWN FOR THE FIRST SPRING CRUISE AND EXERCISES SINCE THE WAR: With band playing, she went out through the centre opening in the great breakwater—a gate that was closed with a heavy boom defence from 1939 to 1945

A few days ago the ships of the Home Fleet left Portland Harbour for a six-weeks cruise to Gibraltar, the West Indies, and other ports. This is the first Spring Cruise and Exercises to be carried out since the war; one of the principal objects will be to make extensive radar tests while at sea. During the passage of the Bay of Biscay, en route to Gibraltar, various exercises will be engaged in: aircraft of the R.A.F. will take part in these, if the weather permits. The cruise is the first resumption by the Home Fleet of pre-war routine. The pictures given on these pages were taken (from the air) as the chief units of the Fleet cleared Portland Harbour at the beginning of the cruise



THE CRUISER "DIADEM" LEAVING THE HARBOUR AT PORTLAND: "Nelson" is seen in the background. "Diadem" is a 5,450-ton vessel of the Dido class, and one of our newest cruisers. She is armed with ten 5·25-in. dual-purpose guns and has a speed of 33 knots: she is 506 ft. in length

SEEN FROM AN AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER THE FLEET: The battleship "Nelson" in the van, followed by the cruisers "Birmingham" and "Diadem," as they left Portland Harbour

ANOTHER IMPRESSION OF H.M.S. "NELSON" AS SHE LED THE HOME FLEET OUT OF PORTLAND HARBOUR FOR THEIR SPRING CRUISE TO GIBRALTAR AND THE WEST INDIES: This famous veteran was completed in the year 1927; she was the first British warship to mount 16-in. guns. Her control-tower is placed very far aft, giving the vessel in profile a curious, truncated appearance

THE CRUISER "BIRMINGHAM" CLEARS THE HARBOUR IN THE WAKE OF THE FLAGSHIP: She is a member of the Newcastle class. She has a displacement of 9,100 tons and carries a complement of 700. "Birmingham" was built at Devonport in 1935-37: she is armed with twelve 6-in. guns and has a maximum speed of 32 knots. All the vessels of this class are distinguished by their raking funnels and masts and the tripod mounting. Three ships of this class were lost during the war

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TRIESTE AS AN INTERNATIONAL PORT

Its True Function in Europe is Threatened by the Demands of Marshal Tito

By FERDINAND TUOHY

EVER since Marshal Tito had to leave Trieste and part of Julian Venetia last summer it 's been plain that as soon as he got local conditions to his liking and the green light from the Moscow *chef-d'orchestre* he would put on the heat with the object of establishing Yugoslavia and Slav Communism once and for all in this magnificent port and Mediterranean outlet, and in the dominant, indivisible hinterland of Western Istria and Venezia Giulia. For Trieste cannot be regarded as an Adriatic or an Italianised port, nor yet as a Balkan one. First and foremost, Trieste is the port of Central Europe, and who reigns there must exert a telling accrued influence over all that crucial region.

Go back to Trieste's modern growth—for it is a creation of rail and steam in the mid-nineteenth century. Until then it had been an unimportant, Italian-speaking port known, when at all, for its charm of life and setting and its air. And so it might have stayed indefinitely but for the vision of Baron Bruck, Rhinelander. Bruck came, saw, and did more than dream of a German *Mitteleuropa*. Here was the God-given port to serve his great design of a Central and Eastern Europe unified under German direction! The Baron became an Austrian in order to encompass with least delay two essentials to the rise of Trieste: the building of Austrian railways and tariff unity for the Hapsburg Empire.

By the '60's Trieste was superseding the Danube as the outlet of all Central Europe. For it is a splendid natural port. I recall, on my last visit, walking almost on to a great liner from the lovely Town Hall quayside and saying to myself, "Never saw big ships so *inside* a town as this!" Incidentally, I was debouching from Central Europe, whither I had gone in post-Munich days to write *In Search of Peace*. But to continue: Trieste's tide is a matter of inches only, while the entire spacious port is protected by three great breakwaters.

We are in the days of Hapsburg glory—the end of last century. Austrian heyday and, maybe, Trieste's happiest time. Music, sun, wine, love and laughter! "The Blue Danube" and "*Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser.*" Consul Sir Richard Burton has passed after twenty years and James Joyce has yet to come, but ill-starred Elizabeth is striking the summit of her fêtes at Miramar. Yet there are other sounds more important: the hammer of the shipbuilding yards. Trieste is on its way up, up. Long before 1914 it was handling a trade comparable to that of Hamburg, Rotterdam, or Antwerp, while its position in the insurance world was second only to London.

For here was a port that, apart from reigning over the Adriatic, had a hinterland which reached back as far as Zürich, Munich, Prague, Breslau and Budapest, and which was linked directly with Hamburg! No wonder the "Triestinos" were contented—and I like to remember them by that name to-day, when there 's an even more vociferous racial shouting than at the time of D'Annunzio's "Revolt from Woodrow." They may drench one in statistics going decades back, now Slovenes rising, now Croats, now Italians. The "Triestino" became a nationality unto himself. Part Austrian, Italian, Croat, Slovene, Greek, Armenian and Levantine—in 1938 the chief topic was Musso's moving-on of 6,000 "Triestino" Jews, mostly influential, so as to tune-in with Adolf's raging anti-Semitism.

But back again to unhappy 1919. Yugoslavia had only just been born. A collapse so total of the Hapsburg Empire had not been allowed for. So Trieste and Istria passed to a clamorous Italy, and a new province of Julian Venetia was cut out of Austria, as well. The Big Three or Four lost sight of the ever-searching fact that Trieste is, and always will be, primarily the port of Central Europe, and in Italian hands the inevitable transpired. Trieste being no Italian maritime necessity, was allowed to fall into decline. More, the merchants of Genoa and Venice saw that it did so, thereby ousting competition. And the only one to benefit in the end was Nazi Germany, which saw Hamburg gain as Trieste lost. Hitler meant Trieste to rise in his own time, and one recalls how he pounced on Istria directly Musso was removed.

Trieste is to-day more than ever the port of Central Europe, with Hamburg in ruin and only coastal shipping permitted Germany. Hence Russian backing and guidance of Tito so that matters may be well-timed and a rising pressure applied according to a technique handed down from Danzig and prior occasions. By which I do not imply that the Marshal's gallants recall Greiser's Nazis; merely that a resemblance doth exist of method and "atmosphere."

"No one wants war," quoth Hitler, spreading all round and all over Danzig, "but I insist on my demands being met!" No one dares to breathe the word "war" these days, yet who can fail to detect in and about Trieste acts and portents that, one had thought, had been ruled out by the United Nations? (Woe, but I keep calling them "Ignited Nations"!)

Let us run over the situation summarily. During the common struggle it is agreed between the Big Three that Field-Marshal Alexander shall occupy Trieste. Yugoslav forces forestall him and are required to withdraw to the other side of the Morgan Line, exception made of one Yugoslav brigade, which is allowed on this side of the line, in compensation to Tito. Otherwise the Morgan Line divides the Allies into two zones, A and B, the former occupied by British and American forces based on Italy, and the latter by Yugoslavs garrisoning most of the disputed maritime province of Julian Venetia and a strip of Istria.

A Peace Conference is set for May 1946, in Paris, during which the delicate question of Trieste and the surrounding country is to be settled on the strength of findings made on the spot by a demarcation commission representing the Foreign Ministers of the U.S.S.R., U.S.A., France and Britain. The idea is to hold a quiet balance until then, between the contending principals, Yugoslavs and Italians. There is no secret Treaty of London in the way, such as in 1915 allotted Trieste and Istria in advance to Italy, and the hope is to hammer out a local settlement in reason and equity. That hope, alas, is already fast receding. No other computation is possible from Tito's attitude and actions, and one's chief anxiety now is lest the Trieste Question may extend into a difference or collision with Russia, more dangerous than any yet on account of nearness of the stake at issue. Trieste having been combustible material for nearer forty than thirty years, it was, no doubt, too much to hope for that interregnum of patience; the more so, in that the Western Allies singularly failed to erect a local body or authority of requisite political skill and insight. Yet one was hardly prepared for such a blatant pressure set-up, so soon.

This has been developed in four spheres, and the intention may well be to work up to a climax synchronising with the anniversary of Tito's *entrée manquée*, and the opening day of the Peace Conference—May 1.

Firstly there is the chorus of grievances and accusations. The Yugoslav Press and radio harps on the injustice of Alexander's ultimatum, applied to territory mainly inhabited by Yugoslavs; charges that Trieste and Zone A are still full of Fascists and former collaborators, both Italians and Yugoslavs, who 've been actually encouraged by A.M.G.; alleges that Britain blocked Yugoslavia getting due representation in U.N.O.; points to Anders' Polish Army on the opposite Adriatic coast and says it is preparing an aggression against Trieste; and complains that General Morgan, at Caserta, consistently refuses to hand over Italian war criminals.

Advices show there is some ground for the second and the last accusations. On the other hand, Yugoslavia declines to publish any withdrawals where these are manifestly called for.

Parallel to this clamour, Russia has been manœuvring in the background, by delaying the departure of the demarcation commission and then insisting that it shall confine its work to Trieste and a small adjoining district, and by conveying to the Italians that she may lessen some of her demands on Italy if that country is less adamant in its opposition to Yugoslav demands. Russia is much the hardest on Italy, alike over colonies, reparations, refusal to abolish the armistice régime, and holding Italian prisoners of war; and it 's all ammunition.

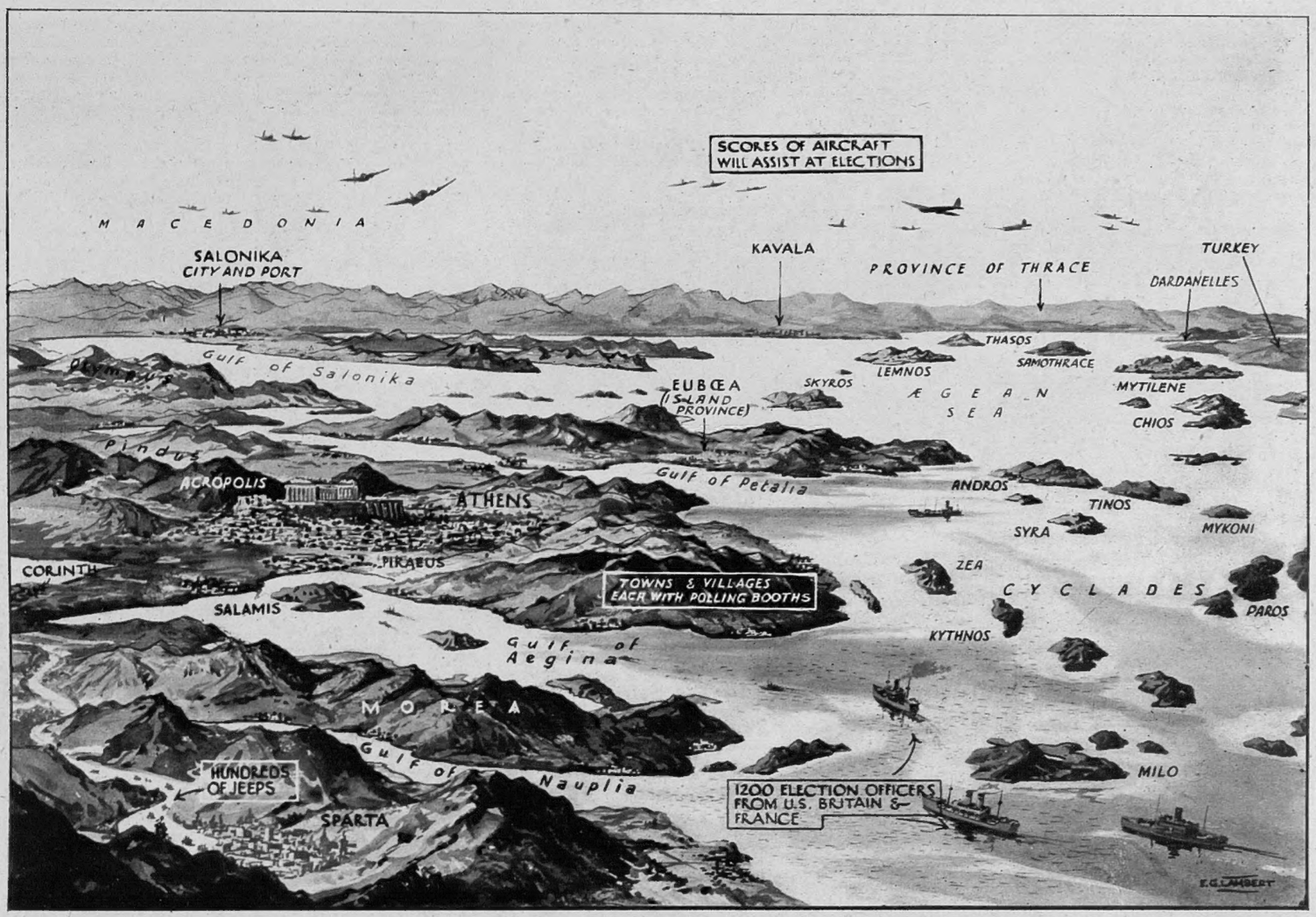
Thirdly comes an intensive propagandist build-up accompanied by pressure tactics amounting, here and there, to terrorisation. The demarcation commission will see freshly-painted pro-Tito slogans on all sides, with "We are Slovenes" as the constant theme, and practically no Italian response. Italians daren't, in view of Yugoslav toughs, who beat up and kidnap (they have "percolated" into the British-American zone too, though not yet dressed as tourists). In addition, the Yugoslavs have changed the currency, schooling, language, and legal system. All this, of course, to spread defeatism.

The trouble is that much more is involved now than appeared likely even a year ago, when any Italian claim was "mud" and Tito a well-deserving popular hero. Giving the Yugoslavs Trieste is no longer just giving them their natural outlet and thereby "taking from Trieste its imperialist character," as fervents have written. We should be installing there the recognised spearhead of what must be regarded as the most dynamic form of imperialism ever witnessed.

If Tito presents us with the *fait accompli*, and we comply, we shall go another stretch in appeasing Russia as she advances west. Trieste is going to be a major Spring headache all right! Is it really too late to make a bid for it as an international port? Trieste was born for nothing else.

THE SLOOP "PELICAN" AND THE FRIGATE "ST. AUSTELL BAY" STAND GUARD WITHIN THE HARBOUR OF TRIESTE: Two British warships on hand in case of complications in this Adriatic port, where Italian and Yugoslav aspirations confront one another. Meanwhile, the work of removing the harbour fortifications goes ahead. It is superintended by the Allied Military Government

BRITISH WIVES AND CHILDREN IN TRIESTE: A cheerful group on the beach. The officers and their families live in the comfortable Excelsior Hotel, while the wives of other ranks are looked after by the Y.W.C.A. at the equally comfortable Hotel Regina. Most of them say that they find life in Trieste less austere than in post-war Britain



A GIANT ELECTIONEERING PROBLEM: Recording and counting the votes in the coming Greek elections will be no easy matter, the land is so divided by seaways and mountain barriers. Observing the election will be equally difficult, and the 1,200 officials of the Allied Mission, who are charged with seeing fair play, will have the assistance of aircraft, motor-boats and jeeps. On election day, teams of these Allied observers will be sent on unannounced visits to representative polling places throughout Greece, and some will be flown to the islands in Catalina flying-boats. Altogether there will be 3,000 separate polling stations—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

PLANS for the GREEK ELECTIONS

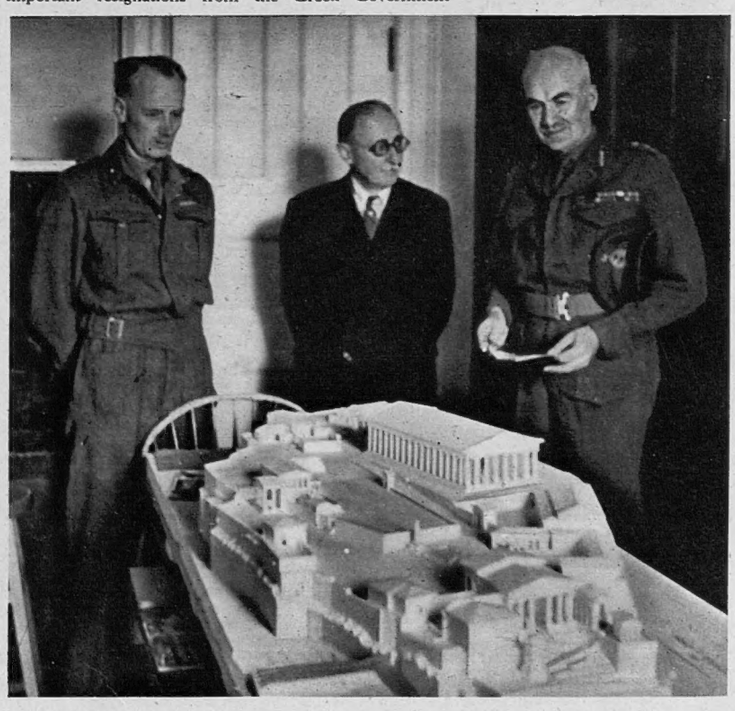
An Allied Mission to See Fair Play at the Polls

Plans are now well advanced in the organisation of the Allied Mission, which will watch the Greek elections and declare to the outside world whether they are held in a free and democratic spirit. The decision to hold the elections on March 31 has been the subject of much criticism in Greece, and has lately led to several important resignations from the Greek Government

"THE RED EAGLES" LEAVE FOR HOME: Troops of the celebrated 4th Indian Division, whose red eagle battle-flash is so familiar in Mediterranean waters, waving good-bye to Salonika as they were being taken out to the liner "Orontes" en route for India. The Division has been helping in the rehabilitation of Macedonia and Thrace

The 4th Indian Division, which has been helping to keep the peace in Northern Greece, has had a wonderful record of service in this war. In six years of campaigning it has won distinction in Abyssinia, and fought its way through the desert campaigns to Tunisia and Italy. In Tunisia the men of the Division took more than 100,000 prisoners, including Von Arnim, Commander of the German and Italian forces in Africa, and in doing so they suffered 25,000 casualties. Many of these men return to their villages in India and Nepal able to speak three or four new languages, and not a few of them are now trained technicians and engineers. During the war the Division won four V.C.s, three G.C.s and one G.M. among more than 1,000 awards for gallantry

On right—It was doubtless in his capacity as Colonel-Commandant of the Army Educational Corps that General Sir Ronald Adam, the Adjutant-General to the Forces, visited the British School of Archæology during his recent trip to Greece. In the course of his stay, Sir Ronald took the opportunity of meeting many of our troops, who have lately been able to enjoy a more restful period since conditions in the country calmed down. During the elections the British troops will have a watching brief



THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL TO THE FORCES VISITS GREECE: General Sir Ronald Adam examining a model of the Acropolis during his recent stay in Athens, when he visited the British School of Archæology. With him is Mr. Graham Stevens, former Director of the American School of Classical Studies

RED ARMY DAY IS CELEBRATED IN BERLIN : Troops of the Soviet forces of occupation parading before the Russian war memorial. They were attending a special ceremony to mark the twenty-eighth anniversary of the creation of the new Army following the Revolution

A FOREIGN SURVEY

Soviet Troops Celebrate in Berlin ; The Jewish Demonstration in Vienna ; The Reclamation of Walcheren ; President Ryti and Two Finnish ex-Premiers Sentenced

A remarkable feature of the Russian war memorial in Berlin is its massive size and air of permanence considering the comparatively short time the Russians have had to complete such a work. The memorial was the scene of brilliant ceremonial on Red Army Day, and after wreaths had been placed at the foot of the main pedestal, there was a march-past of Red Army units, the salute being taken by General Smimov

THE RUSSIAN WAR MEMORIAL IN BERLIN : The scene before the monument on Red Army Day, when wreaths were placed at the foot of the pedestal to commemorate those who fell in the Battle for Berlin

"OPEN THE GATES OF PALESTINE"—"JUSTICE FOR JEWISH PEOPLE" : These were among the headlines on the banners carried by the 250 Jewish demonstrators who recently marched through Vienna. They assembled outside the Hotel Sacher, the luxurious British Officers' Club run by N.A.A.F.I., and they did not finally disperse until four jeep-loads of international military police had arrived on the scene. Their main plea was that members of the Anglo-American Committee then visiting Vienna to investigate Jewish emigration problems had not really interviewed the right people, and were thus gaining a biased view

JEWS DEMONSTRATE IN VIENNA : A procession arriving in front of the Hotel Sacher, where its leaders sought to interview the Anglo-American Committee which was then in the city studying aspects of the Jewish emigration problem

ONE WHO WAS EMBARRASSED : Captain A. Reeve, of the British Army, the military manager of the British Officers' Club, Vienna, circulated among the demonstrating Jews trying to persuade them to move away from the hotel

MIDDELBURG RISES AGAIN AFTER ENDURING FIRE AND FLOOD : Looking across the roof-tops of this old town on Walcheren Island, which has now been largely rebuilt, thus living up to its centuries-old motto of "I struggle and I emerge." The workman in the foreground is engaged in replacing masonry on the roof of the Town Hall

THE MIDDELBURG REJOICINGS : A band playing in the market square during the special celebrations to mark the completion of the main programme of rebuilding this town on Walcheren Island. Middelburg was first hit by the German blitz in May 1940, and, as final liberation came, it was largely submerged by the flood-waters let loose by the bursting of the Walcheren dykes. These special celebrations were held in honour of the builders who had carried out the renovation of the town. Many of the old streets have now been broadened, and the celebrated market square has been altered to show the Town Hall to better advantage

FINNISH WAR LEADERS ARE SENTENCED : A President and two ex-Premiers found guilty. M. Ryti, who received ten years' penal servitude; M. Linkomies, who received six years' imprisonment; and M. Rangell, who also received six years, walking down the steps of the Helsinki Court after judgment had been passed on them. All the accused were found guilty of involving Finland in war

THE STRA FEAST OF SCHOUWEN : An old springtime custom on a Dutch island. Farm horses, groomed and caparisoned for the occasion, their tails braided and flowers in their bridles, heading the procession down to the coast during the Stra Festival on the island of Schouwen, which always takes place in March at the first sign of spring. On the great day each farmer sends his best horse, and on reaching a given point the horses race down the shore and into the sea, rounding a stake-mark in deep water, and coming back to the winning-post on land. There are prizes for the winners, and after the race the whole island goes gay. There is dancing in the village streets, usually to the accompaniment of a barrel-organ

A POPULAR FIGURE IN JAPAN'S POST-WAR THEATRE : Chojuro Kawarasaki, a well-known actor on the Tokyo stage, in his make-up for the part of Abraham Lincoln. The play, which depicts the great President's life during the days of the Civil War, is being presented at the Imperial Theatre, and, needless to say, American occupation forces figure largely in the audience

HOW THEY DO IT IN NEW ENGLAND : A college caters for the housing needs of its new pupils. A section of the great housing estate built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to provide homes for married ex-soldiers returning to complete their education. The hundred homes in Westgate cover nearly ten acres of land, and have every convenience for simple but adequate living. A feature of the equipment is a compact, one-piece kitchen unit, 4 ft. wide and 2 ft. deep, which miraculously enough includes gas-stove, oven, refrigerator and sink

THE APPEAL OF THE CHURCH TO RUSSIA'S YOUTH : Patriarch Alexius of Moscow and All Russia bearing his staff and magnificently robed as he enters the Elokhovsky Cathedral, Moscow, for one of the services that are now once again a regular feature of life throughout the Soviet Union

PATRIARCH ALEXIUS PRONOUNCES THE BLESSING : Last year he succeeded Patriarch Sergius, and he is thus the second leader of the Russian Church since the restoration of the Patriarchate in 1943

THE PATRIARCH ALEXIUS OF MOSCOW AND ALL RUSSIA ADDRESSES HIS FLOCK : A scene of splendour within the Elokhovsky Cathedral as the new leader of the Church speaks to the people. The Patriarch played an heroic part in the siege of Leningrad, for which he was decorated by the Soviet Union

RUSSIA RETURNS to the OLD RELIGION

New Pictures of Worshippers Thronging the Elokhovsky Cathedral, Moscow

THE SEA OF UPTURNED FACES—SOVIET CITIZENS WORSHIPPING IN THE ELOKHOVSKY CATHEDRAL AT A SERVICE CONDUCTED BY THE PATRIARCH ALEXIUS

When Marshal Stalin received the Metropolitan Sergius in 1943, giving him permission to call a Holy Synod, the Soviet State thus acknowledged for the first time the existence of the Russian Orthodox Church; and since that day it has given every encouragement to the old religion. Meanwhile, the Russian people, engulfed in the tide of war and with so many calls upon their endurance, turned to the faith of their fathers, and during the years of struggle against Germany the churches throughout the U.S.S.R. were invariably thronged with worshippers. During the war Patriarch Sergius, as he became when elected leader of the Church, gave the strongest support to the national effort, and when he died in 1944 Metropolitan Alexius, who was decorated for his courage in the siege of Leningrad, took his place as Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

MADRID STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE : Carrying banners and singing the Falange anthem, they march down the Grand Via in belligerent mood, many of them shouting slogans such as "Franco, Yes. Russia, No." Shortly after this picture was taken the students man-handled Carl Hartmann, the Associated Press correspondent, and forced him to give the Fascist salute. This display of feeling was a direct result of strong Allied pressure on Spain, and coincided with the closing of the Pyrenean frontier by France and the complete ban on all travel by land, sea and air between the two countries

THE CAUDILLO IN SPELL-BINDING MOOD : General Franco, whose regime is threatened by the Allied Powers, partly as a result of world reaction to the death sentences on Spanish Socialists and partly as a result of the disclosure of the intimate nature of his collaboration both with Hitler and Mussolini

SPAIN under the Franco Regime

Tension with Her Neighbours in Europe

SECURING THE ARMY'S LOYALTY : General Franco delivering an address after handing diplomas to forty-two officers who had just graduated from the General Staff School, Madrid. Of recent weeks the Caudillo has been actively mixing with the armed forces, as if making sure of their sympathy in the event of a hostile rising in Spain

Since the close of the war in Europe the position of General Franco has become increasingly uneasy, and, not having shown himself disposed to meet the wishes of the Allies in any way, he has encountered mounting hostility abroad. Anger against Spain reached boiling-point at the end of February with the execution of Cristino Garcia, a Spanish Socialist who had fought in the French Resistance Movement, and with the disclosure from Washington of captured German documents relating to Spain's support of the Axis. It appears from these documents that General Franco at one time promised Hitler and Mussolini to enter the war on condition that Spain received Gibraltar, Morocco and part of Algeria. Gibraltar, he declared, could be polished off in a few days. The negotiations petered out when Franco, anticipating an Allied victory, took a more cautious attitude. France has been the first country to take action against the Franco regime, closing the frontier to all traffic

GENERAL QUEIPO DE LLANO ARRIVES IN LISBON : General Franco's Governor in Southern Spain during the Civil War days seen (left) on the gangway of the Tagus ferry-boat during his recent visit to Portugal. Questioned as to his motive in leaving Spain, the General declared that he had come to see his daughter on arrival from America, but he did not deny the possibility that he might seek audience with Don Juan, Count of Barcelona, the Pretender to the Spanish Throne. At the time of the Civil War De Llano was known as "The Radio General," owing to his fondness for propaganda

***On left*—ALARM AND DESPONDENCY ON THE PYRENEAN FRONTIER :** Swiss travellers are deeply agitated when they are held up at the French Customs office at Port Bou and are told that the French Government has put a stop to all land, sea and air travel between France and Spain. This drastic measure followed immediately on the execution of Garcia and other Spanish Socialists

EGYPT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRITAIN'S AIR SERVICES : The Avro-York air-liner flying over the Pyramids en route from South Africa to Britain via Nairobi, Khartoum, Cairo and Malta. She has a scheduled journey time of just under forty hours, and Cairo is one of the main refuelling stops. The need for good relations between Britain and Egypt was never more important, and it has been emphasised that the recent disturbances are largely the result of Wafd Party agitation, with the Egyptian student element, as ever, much to the fore—*Drawing by L. Fish*

TREATY TENSION IN EGYPT

Wafdist Youth Demonstrates Against Britain

For some time past agitation has been carried on in Egypt against so-called British aspirations in the country, and matters came to a head three weeks ago when there was a serious outbreak of anti-British rioting in Cairo. The British Government immediately took the matter up with the Egyptian Government, and it became apparent that the real trouble has its origin in the jealousy existing between Egypt's parties, the Wafd wishing to make capital out of its anti-British attitude. The whole situation is most unfortunate, as Britain has already indicated her willingness to bring about a revision of the 1936 Treaty. The charges by the Wafd that Britain has in mind the annexation of the Sudan are fantastic, but it is evident that this party has implanted a large measure of suspicion in the public mind

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN : A sketch-map showing the relationship of Egypt to the Condominium of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan ; the latter an area which has come into the news again as a result of Wafd Party agitation

POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN EGYPT IS CENTRED IN CAIRO AND THE DELTA CITIES, BUT ALONG THE NILE LIFE PURSUES ITS UNCHANGING WAY : Everything depends upon the great river, and there the fellahin patiently till the ground and hope that it will be watered each year by an obedient Nile. This diagrammatic sketch typifies mile upon mile of the Nile Valley, with irrigation canals by the thousand and villages at regular intervals along the banks, some clinging round temple ruins several thousand years old. In these regions there are no noisy political demonstrations, and there is scant movement among the tillers, save when some member of the family makes the great journey to Mecca—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

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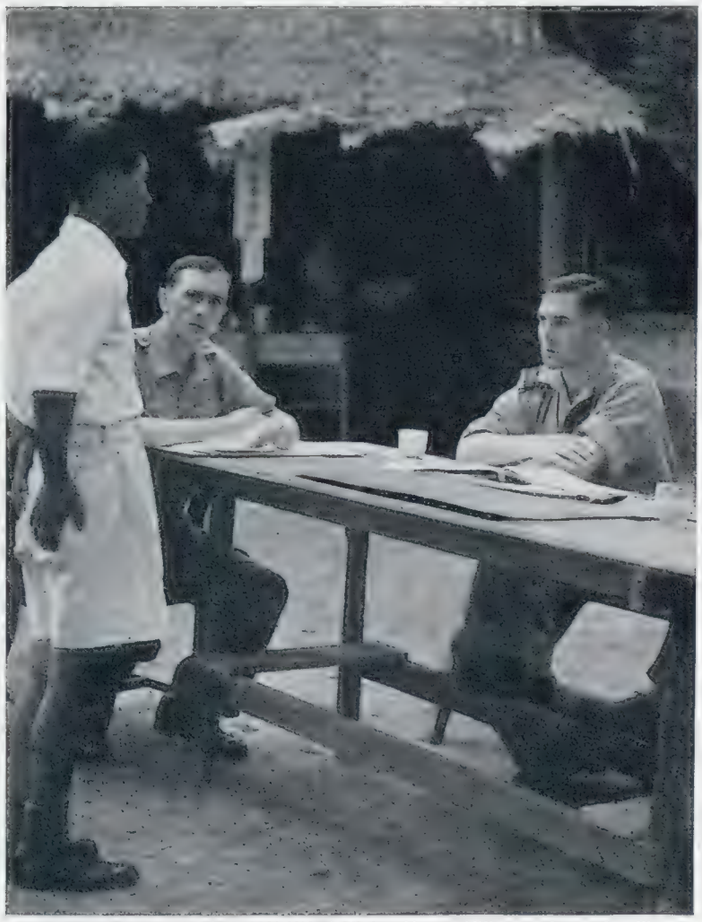
BANGKOK REJOICES—CROWDS THRONG ROUND THE ROYAL PALACE TO WATCH THE FIREWORK DISPLAY ON THE OCCASION OF THE PEACE CELEBRATIONS : An artist's impression of one of the many gay scenes in the Siamese capital following the signature of the Treaty between Siam and the British Commonwealth. Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten was present in Bangkok for the occasion and he took the salute with King Ananda at a great military parade—*Drawing by E. G. Lambert*

One of the first enemy countries in the Far East to be granted a Treaty of Peace is Siam, and, with the return of her young King, Ananda Mahidol, who spent the war years in Switzerland, the country has achieved a new measure of stability. The visit of Admiral Mountbatten to Bangkok was the occasion for special celebrations, the population giving themselves up to three days of merrymaking. Half the inhabitants are Chinese, and they celebrated in their traditional way with fireworks, firecrackers and processions. Throughout the capital a happy, carefree spirit prevailed, in marked contrast to the unhappy atmosphere of neighbouring Batavia. For the young King it was his first important public appearance and the three days of celebrations must have been a testing experience for one who had been away from his country for thirteen years. The King impressed those who met him with his intelligence and sincerity

MALAYAN GUERILLA FIGHTERS ARE SHOWN ROUND SELETAR : Two Malayan soldiers and a Malayan woman, who were recently decorated by Admiral Mountbatten for their work behind the Japanese lines, pictured during their visit to our Singapore R.A.F. base. Accompanying them are Air Commodore Whitley (right), Deputy Senior Air Staff Officer, and Squadron Leader Lacey, the British fighter ace, who has twenty-seven German and one Japanese planes to his credit. The visitors were shown some of the latest types of operational aircraft, and were taken for a trip in a flying-boat



THE GREAT ROUND-UP IN MALAYA : Flight Lieut. Miller and an Intelligence sergeant interrogating a Korean prison guard in Singapore. Throughout Malaya the R.A.F. police have been at work since the close of hostilities looking for war criminals and other wanted persons still at large. As a result, fifty-five Japanese and Koreans are now in the Outram Road Prison, Singapore, awaiting trial, occupying the same quarters as Australian and British prisoners of war, many of whom were executed less than a month before VJ-Day

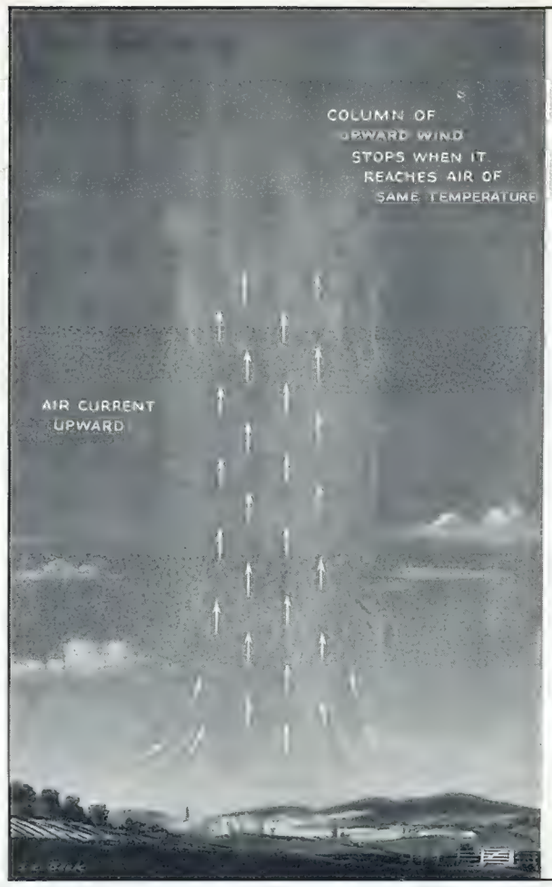
THE HIGH WINDS OF WINTER

Regional and Global Factors That Combine to Produce Our Weather

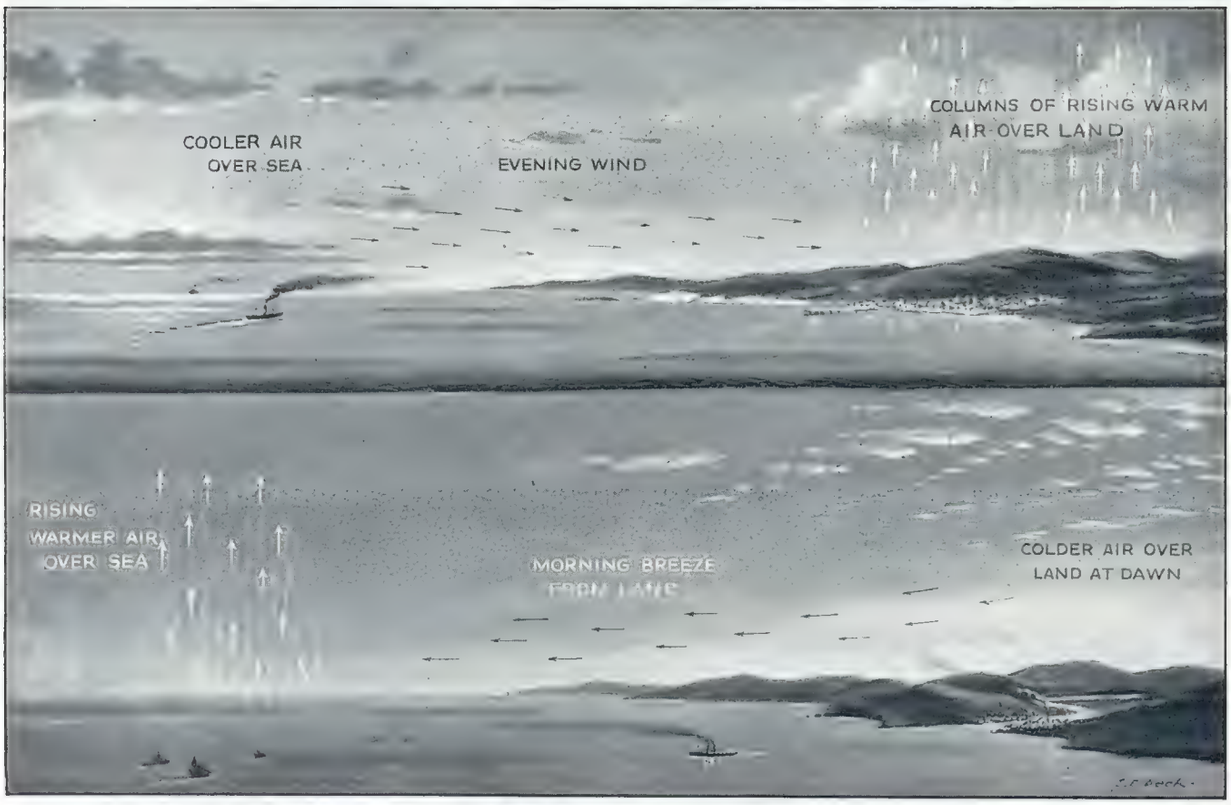
Amid the general news of the winter storms of late February and early March, the presence of very high winds stood out as a notable feature. Rain, sleet and snow fell on the Southern Counties, and at the same time it was recorded that gales of great force roared up the Channel, punctuated with gusts of excessive violence.

Whence come these mighty winds?

Needless to say, the explanation is complex, one part of the answer lying in the simple movements of purely local character and the other part in the great atmospheric movements between Pole and Equator. Even the rotation of the globe has a vast bearing on the slant of these winds. In the following pictures these causes of wind production are outlined in brief diagrammatic form

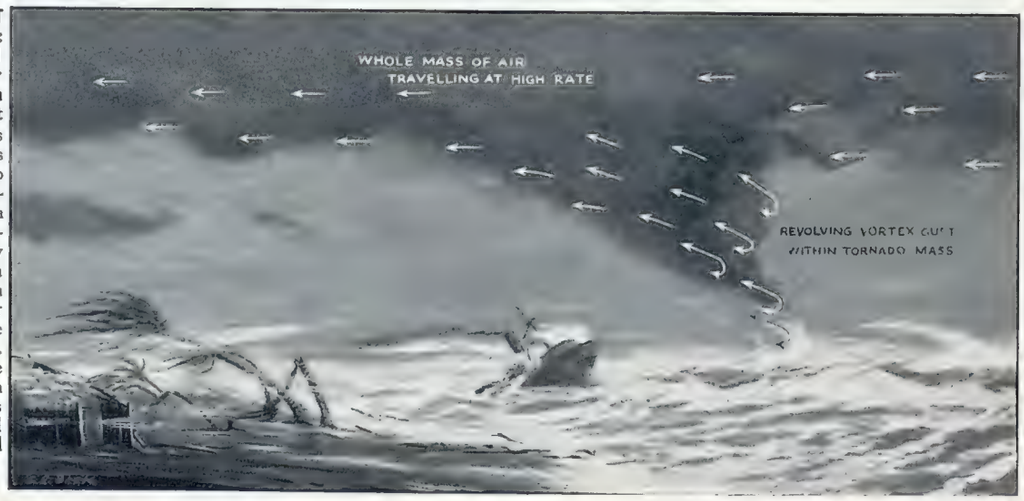


UP-CURRENTS AND GUSTS—TWO ASPECTS OF LOCALISED WIND MOVEMENTS: The main cause of wind movement is the rising or falling column of air brought about by change of temperature. Hosts of these columns rise and fall during a twenty-four-hour period, and they are the prime causes of local weather conditions. Where the surface of the ground is broken, the situation becomes more complicated, however, and upward currents are often noticed on the sides of mountains or over the tops of cliffs. At a steep declivity, a wind which is horizontal on the plateau becomes more or less vertical at the edge



***Below*—WHEN A HURRICANE BLOWS: Quite apart from the purely local conditions described elsewhere on this page, the major storms are due to the great atmospheric movements from Pole to Equator and Equator to Pole, and they are coupled also with the rotation of the earth round its axis.** Huge masses of the atmosphere are constantly in motion, and the disturbances so created may travel for long distances. A fierce gale in the Channel may have its origin many hundreds of miles away

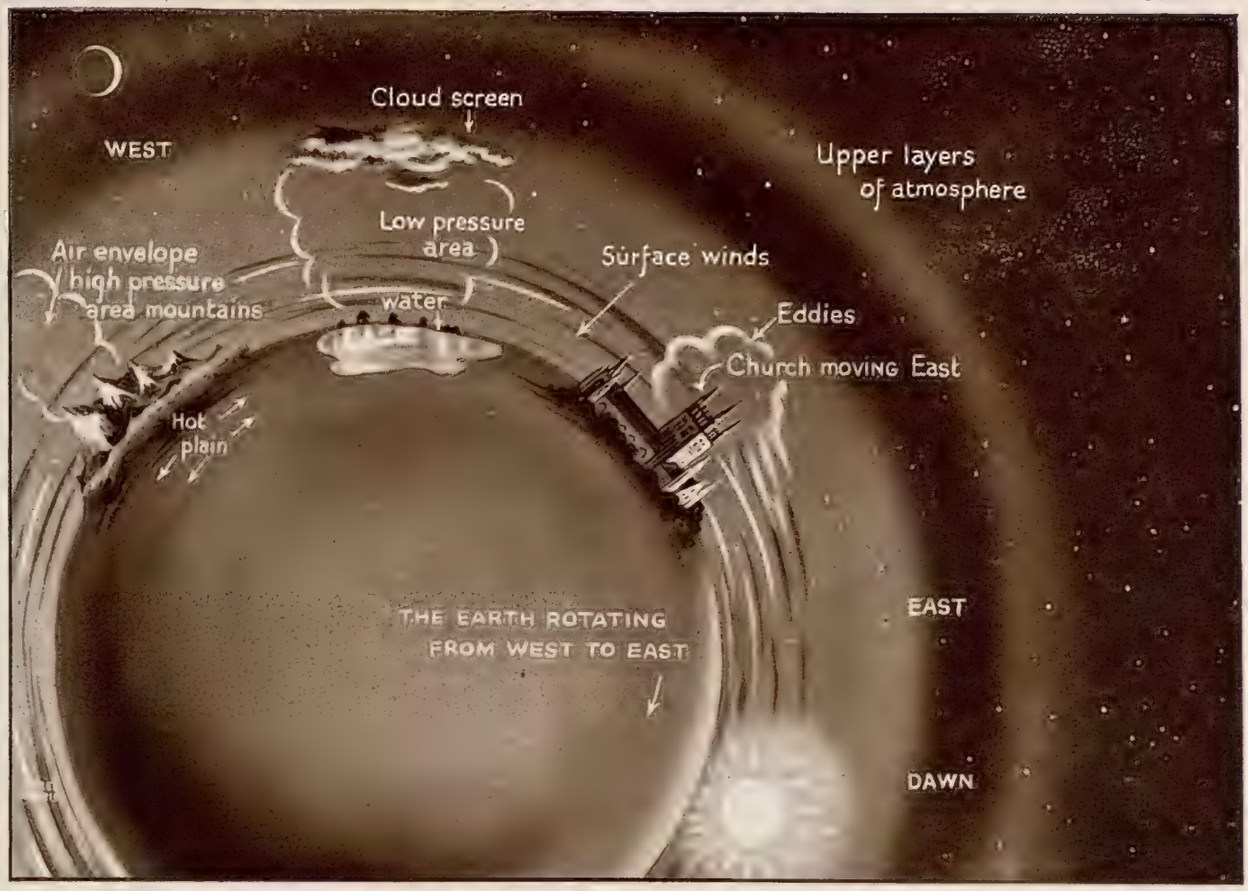
THE REGULAR MORNING AND EVENING WINDS THAT BLOW FROM SEA TO SHORE, AND SHORE TO SEA: These winds blow at well-ascertained times and their origin is obvious. A local heating or cooling of adjacent areas leaves a vacuum which has to be filled, and as a result a movement of air is at once set up. When the sun shines on land and sea equally, the top soil of the land becomes hotter than the water, partly because the heat tends to remain on the surface of the soil, which is a bad conductor, whereas it is soon dissipated over a large area in the sea through the motion of the water. As a consequence, the air over the land derives more heat by conduction than does that over the sea, and a circulation is set up. The reverse happens towards sunset, when land and sea lose heat at the same rate, but the former loses temperature more rapidly and air rises up from the at first warmer sea while air flows offshore to replace it. Thus a breeze blows onshore in the morning and offshore in the evening. These breezes are best observed in comparatively calm conditions of the atmosphere, as they may be masked by larger and more powerful circulations, due to other causes, at times of high wind



—*Drawings by S. E. Beck*

On right—

In other diagrams on these pages the minor localised movements of the wind are shown in detail, but there is another and larger overriding factor in the rotation of the earth. This rotation has the effect of changing the trade winds from a simple north-to-south or south-to-north direction, the air being dragged with the earth and acquiring different west-to-east velocities at different latitudes. As the north wind blows towards the Equator it is given an increasing sideways component, making it into a north-east trade wind. In the same way, the south wind of a stationary globe becomes the south-east trade wind of our rotating earth. The trade winds are only apparent in their true direction over the ocean. In the neighbourhood of land they are masked by the land and sea breezes, which also have their directions affected by the earth's rotation



HOW MOVEMENTS OF THE EARTH ARE LINKED WITH THE BIG AND LITTLE MOVEMENTS OF THE AIR UPON THE EARTH'S SURFACE: A highly-simplified diagram showing the relationship of the globe's rotation to the behaviour of the winds and how it may play a major part in the creation of major storms. Owing to this rotation the direction of the trade winds is changed markedly

A PLANE IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING—THE FATE OF THE GIANT LINCOLN BOMBER WHICH CRASHED IN FLAMES NEAR QUENIBOROUGH: Enveloped in flames, the low-flying machine hurtles to the ground carrying to death a crew of seven—*Drawing by Roland Davies*

The recent disaster involving a Lincoln bomber, which crashed in the neighbourhood of Leicester, carrying to death its seven passengers, once again evidences how even the most modern plane is still at the mercy of the elements. Eye-witnesses of the accident declare that they saw the great machine flying low about a mile past the village of Queniborough, and that, a few seconds later, it appeared to be struck by forked lightning. It hurtled to the ground with its fuselage enveloped in flames. So quickly did the disaster occur that a parachute descent was out of the question, and when the machine reached the ground, exploding ammunition and the heat generated by the flames made close approach well-nigh impossible

THERE IS LIGHT AND AIR IN PREFAB. TOWN: A street scene in Cubitt Town, in the heart of London's dockland, which was completely devastated during the London blitz and has now been rebuilt with temporary prefabricated dwellings. Already 200 dockland families have taken possession of these new homes, and most of them, who have known years of evacuation, are delighted to be back in dockland, mightily changed though the scene is since the Luftwaffe did its work. The prefabricated houses have two bedrooms, a sitting-room, a kitchen and a bathroom. Built into the kitchen is an electrically-heated boiler, providing hot water for washing and laundry

HOME NEWS IN PICTURES

FROM A BOMBED HOUSE IN SAMUDA STREET: Looking out across the new prefabricated dwellings which have risen on the blitzed site at Cubitt Town

LORDSHIP LANE GETS READY FOR THE GREAT DAY: Men engaged in repair work at one of the stations on the Nunhead, Honor Oak and Crystal Palace high-level line, which after being out of operation during the war years has now been reopened to regular traffic. Some of the stations suffered damage from bombs during the blitz, and as at Lordship Lane, temporary waiting-rooms and other amenities are having to be provided before the line is ready for action

THE NEW HEAD OF SCOTLAND YARD'S SPECIAL BRANCH: Major Leonard Burt, who has been appointed to this important post in succession to Mr. Albert Canning. During the war Major Burt was a senior officer in M.I.5, and he went on many dangerous missions in Europe. He interviewed Franco concerning the trial of John Amery. Before the war Major Burt was a chief inspector in the Special Branch

THE NEW MATRON OF THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL: Miss M. Marriott at her desk in Orpington County Hospital, where she has been in charge since August 1941. Previously Miss Marriott was Assistant Matron at Guy's, and she has a long record of service in London hospitals. She will be taking up her new appointment during the next few weeks

JEAN COX PULLS HER WEIGHT: This twelve-year-old girl is one of the bell-ringers of St. Andrew's Church, Sonning, where she works at her father's side in the belfry. There are eight bells at Sonning, and women who made up the bell-ringing team during the war are still playing their part

THEY WANT TO KNOW THE REASON WHY : Some eloquent studies in expression at the first meeting of the Kangaroo Club formed by the war brides of Australian Servicemen who are awaiting their passages to Australia. This meeting took place at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, and it was agreed that a sit-down strike at Australia House would be organised if their demands for speedy reunion with their husbands are not soon met. Many war brides have already arrived

LEADERS OF THE KANGAROO CLUB : Mrs. Heather Lee, wife of Flying-Officer Bill Lee, of Goondiwindy, Queensland ; Mrs. Doris Trembath, wife of Warrant Officer Trembath, of Geelong ; and Mrs. Moloney, wife of Leading Aircraftman Moloney, of Reedy, Western Australia, seen together at the first meeting of the Kangaroo Club, when they aired their grievances and decided upon a plan of action

VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY COMES POST-HASTE TO ENGLAND : The Field-Marshal conferring with Mr. J. B. Hynd, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister in charge of German affairs, during his flying visit to London following the news that the German civilian ration would have to be reduced. It has been reported that Field-Marshal Montgomery is making a very strong plea to the Government in an effort to find some means of saving millions of Germans from starvation

MEDICAL STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON, MARCH TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH : The procession passing down Tottenham Court Road en route to the offices of Mr. Aneurin Bevan. They were protesting against the continued possession of some of their premises by Government departments, and they want the buildings back so that the full quota of students may be received this year. More than half of the College's Anatomy Section is still occupied by the Rat Infestation Section of the Ministry of Food, and more than half the Physiology Department is still occupied by the Technical Reproductions Branch of the Admiralty

SOUTHEND MAKES READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON : New girders are being put in, new decking laid, and a hundred minor details are being attended to in order to prepare the famous mile-long pier for the coming summer, when record crowds are expected in Southend. The pier has suffered from neglect during the war years, but that will not be noticeable when the first Bank Holiday comes along

LOOKING FOR T.N.T. : Taking advantage of the lack of activity in Lowestoft trawl market, naval mine-clearing parties are searching the bottom of the dock, to ensure that no danger remains from unexploded bombs. Teams of divers work in relays, each taking a section of the dock. They have self-contained diving-suits, and are thus able to work independently of air-pipes. So far they have found only a few unexploded shells from the guns of the coastal anti-aircraft batteries

THEY HAVE ANSWERED A MILLION QUERIES

What the Resettlement Advice Bureaux Have Already Achieved for Demobilised Men and Women

By CHARLES GRAVES

ONE of the finest legacies left by the Coalition Government—indeed, the Caretaker Government—to the Socialist Party is the resettlement advice system. Most of the ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen who take advantage of these offices up and down the country doubtless imagine that they were originated by the Labour Party—in the same way that they think the admirable system of kitting on demobilisation is also due to Mr. Attlee. In fact, the Resettlement Advice Bureaux and the demobilisation kit were organised when the Conservative Party had a majority in the House of Commons.

Last week the millionth query to the resettlement advice offices was put and answered. At first sight it would appear that either the Citizens Advice Bureaux have been made redundant to the resettlement advice offices, or *vice versa*. In actual fact, the former organisation deals much more with family problems than with jobs, and a high percentage of the enquiries come from housewives anxious to solve personal problems involving divorce, utility furniture, clothing coupons and children.

Most of the problems which come the way of resettlement advice offices concern employment prospects—either in pre-war occupations or in training for new jobs. The Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act lays it down that every man can insist on being taken back for a minimum period of six months by his pre-war employers, unless there is a reasonable and practical cause against it. He must, of course, inform his former employers as soon as possible, if he wishes to exert this very proper power. Thousands of enquirers—there are 43,000 a week—want to know exactly how they stand in this connection, and what they have to do to bring their case before the reinstatement committees. Nor do they always want to know merely whether they have the right to reinstatement; they may ask for help in tracing the whereabouts of their employers who have moved their factories whilst they (the Servicemen) were overseas.

Many men neither wish nor are able to return to their previous jobs for various reasons, and therefore come for advice about prospects in other jobs. An ex-soldier, for example, wanted to discover the rates of pay and employment prospects of divers. A W.A.A.F. wanted to discover how to become a stunt pilot for the films. A soldier enquired about his prospects of getting a job as a tea planter. Another wanted to know how to become a radio-telephonist in civil aviation. A Wren was eager to know the short cut to purveying horse-flesh for human consumption.

Another woman whose children were in a remand home and whose husband was in jail asked for assistance in getting the latter out of prison and the former out of the remand home, so that they could have a family reunion at Christmas before she herself went into a maternity home for her next baby.

A sailor was most anxious to discover the qualifications for a lighthouse-keeper. He learned with interest that the official reply was that he must be able to "masticate with his own dentures." A marine wanted to know how to become a bookmaker. A flight-lieutenant with a number of gallantry awards called (*a*) for advice on how to become the proprietor of a café, (*b*) if he could not get a licence, how to manufacture ice-cream, (*c*) if he could not get a licence for that, how to start a bicycle shop, (*d*) when this project also fell through, how to run an accommodation agency for letting rooms to homeless people.

This was an unusual case. Normally the callers make only one visit. Incidentally, half the questions they ask are answered automatically by the girl at the desk without their having to be granted special interviews in private rooms. These private rooms, like the waiting-rooms, are furnished with gay and modern streamlined tables and chairs, quite different from the usual sombre Government furniture.

There is a steady flow of enquiries about new work which demands a training course. These men and women are given the exact details about their eligibility for one or other of the Government schemes (the Further Education and Training Scheme or the Vocational Training Scheme). But some of the training enquiries are difficult to answer—men who want, for example, a special course of training in plastics, undertakers' apprentices who want further experience in embalming, disabled men who want to become private tutors, are cases in point. A frequent type of problem is provided by men who want to start a business which requires a licence—as most businesses do. The sale of petroleum, snuff, game, sugar-beet, all need licensing. So do pawnbrokers, taxicab drivers and hawkers.

Some difficulties, usually of a personal character, can only be solved by enlisting the help of voluntary organisations. One man had to buy a factory he was renting or lose his business. The resettlement advice office put him in touch with a voluntary organisation, which made him an immediate loan at a low rate of interest. A reporter returning from the Forces had no typewriter and was unable to buy one. He was put in touch with a voluntary organisation which loaned him a machine until he was lucky enough to buy one.

Another man had to have a complete set of forms printed in Russian. The resettlement advice office put him in touch with a qualified interpreter. An ex-Serviceman who had got into difficulties over a hire-purchase agreement was scared by a County Court summons. The resettlement advice office enabled him to have it settled out of court.

Housing is, of course, one of the biggest problems confronting the ex-Serviceman on his return to civil life. The allocation of houses is the responsibility of the local authority for the area, and the resettlement advice officer cannot personally take any direct action about finding a house. There are, however, certain local authorities which have instituted priorities in housing, and after an interview it can quickly be established whether a man is eligible under a particular local system.

Ninety-five per cent. of the enquiries come from ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen. The remainder should, by rights, be people who have been doing work of national importance. In fact, nobody is barred. This has applied to officers of the American forces and other ranks who have enquired how to become British citizens, or how to arrange matters for the English girls whom they have married over here.

As with the Citizens Advice Bureaux, there are numberless enquiries about divorce, and the aid of the Law Society and/or the Poor Man's Lawyers is continuously being sought.

One ex-Servicewoman's husband was a foreigner who had recently been granted naturalisation by another country. On leaving the Service she had not been able to establish her legal nationality, and there had been difficulties about obtaining an identity card and ration and clothing books. The resettlement advice office made an appointment for her to see the appropriate official of another Government Department. At this interview the woman learnt that she had not after all lost her British nationality, and was forthwith given a British passport, identity card, ration books and clothing books for herself and her expected child, and a permit and passage documents to join her husband abroad.

Resettlement advice officers are able to tell men who have married Allied nationals or Dominion citizens of the regulations for bringing wives to this country. An American soldier who wanted to adopt a British child was told how to set about the formalities. A resettlement advice officer was telephoned by a bedridden ex-Serviceman in hospital who had no friends or relatives in this country. He had been unable to get an identity card or ration book. The resettlement advice officer went to the hospital and got a legal authority for him to collect an identity card and ration book.

A woman who had received a postcard in French from a relative in a German concentration camp was very distressed about her inability to understand the message. The resettlement advice office was able to assure her that the postcard merely stated that her relative was alive and well. A tragic story was told by a man who came from Burma to find that his employer had gone out of business and that his wife had left him and had sold up his home. The resettlement advice office put him in touch with the billeting officer, who found him somewhere to live; with the Employment Exchange, who found him a job; and with a lawyer, who prepared his case.

A rather different sort of enquiry came from the father of a man in the Forces who, when his son was called up, arranged for the letting of his son's house. Now that the son was being demobilised the father had given the tenants notice to leave, but they refused to comply. The resettlement advice office advised the father to consult a lawyer to see if it were possible to apply to the Court for possession of the house.

Work at resettlement advice offices sometimes has its lighter side. A man and his wife came to complain that the trousers of his demobilisation suit were too long. His wife was advised to shorten them. Another man who had accidentally burnt a letter before opening it came to the resettlement office and wanted to know who had sent it.

One of the very few complaints came from a woman who applied for four new motor-car tyres. She was highly dissatisfied when, after being given all information about priorities, she failed to receive them within two months.

THEY WANT TO GO TO AUSTRALIA: A line of would-be emigrants waiting to be admitted to Australia House, Strand, to make enquiries about the new State-aided passages to the Commonwealth. Ex-Servicemen can secure a free passage

THE CALL OF THE COMMONWEALTH: More would-be emigrants filling in application forms, making inquiries, and studying travel literature at Australia House, where there has been a tremendous rush of applications since the first announcement of State-aided passages. Under this first post-war migration plan, free passage will be granted to ex-members of the Services and their families, while others will be required to contribute £10. Owing to the shortage of shipping, Viscount Addison has stated that it is unlikely that the scheme will come into operation before the end of the year

PARIS IN WINTER'S GRIP : Snowbound motorists struggling to extricate themselves after the recent big fall of snow in the French capital. It was the heaviest fall Paris has known since 1879, and in some places 16 ins. was recorded. The jeep on the right was able to use its extra power with advantage in helping to extricate the larger car. To add to the city's troubles there has been a big 'flu epidemic

FRANCE EMBRACES THE PRINCIPLE OF PREFABRICATION : Two examples of the type of inexpensive, quickly constructed dwelling which are now being erected to meet the housing shortage. The new designs have been well received, and they are considered preferable to some of the prefabricated houses recently imported from the United States, Canada, Sweden and Switzerland. The two-storey design on the left appears to be made from large concrete blocks, while that on the right is of wooden construction and is more conventional

NICE PREPARES FOR A PEACEFUL INVASION : Clearing up the beach following the dismantling of German anti-invasion fortifications at the famous Riviera resort, which is hoping for a great influx of visitors on the occasion of the annual Battle of Flowers. Nice was extremely lucky during the war, hardly suffering at all at the hands of the Germans ; and even along the coast at St. Raphael, where General Patch put in the spearhead of his Allied invading force, the destruction was comparatively light. It is now possible for British visitors to go to the Riviera, but prices are still extraordinarily high and show no signs of falling to any appreciable extent

PICTURES FROM FRANCE

A SKIER OUT ON THE SLOPES OF MONTMARTRE : A sidelight on the big snowfall in Paris when traffic was brought to a standstill in many parts of the city. The distribution of food supplies was hampered and several suburbs went without papers

AN EX-PREMIER TAKES A HOLIDAY : M. Paul Reynaud with his wife and daughter in the Calle de Seville, Madrid, where they were on holiday just before the announcement of the closing of the Pyrenean frontier. M. Reynaud suffered considerably in German hands during the days of the occupation

MAN WITH A MISSION : M. Leon Blum, former Socialist Premier of France, who has been appointed special Ambassador to the United States and will seek financial and other aid for France. He is seen in conference with M. Tanguy Prigent, the French Minister for Agriculture. M. Blum occupies a special position of authority in France to-day, and his regular articles in the Press are often accorded almost oracular significance

NEW LAMPS and OLD

A Fortnightly Causerie on Life and Letters

By JOHN GORE

PRINCE OF SPENDTHRIFTS (2).—George Payne's newly-acquired wealth still positively burned his fingers and desperate action was needed to "water" his capital. He managed by means of an infallible system (which comprised backing most of the probable starters in most of the day's races) to drop £30,000 on his first Derby meeting, and the pace slackened no whit before the time came round for Doncaster. Great-uncle Creevey used his influence with Mrs. Michael Angelo Taylor to get young George included in the house-party at Cantley for the "Leger" meeting in 1824, but although he accepted the invitation, he ran out at the last moment. He was "too busy over his bets" for the big race, which was to stage his financial come-back. The breakdown of Swiss in a gallop had played the devil with his book. Thus early was George Payne labelled and docketed. Come-backs are proverbially tricky ventures, and Payne's first Leger was no exception. He came down with a bump over the victory of Mr. Gascoigne's Jerry. He had been properly gulled by John Gully, the prize-fighter, now turned bookie. The first estimate of his losses spoke of £25,000, but Creevey, with his zeal for accuracy, wrote to assure the sympathetic family that the figure was no more than £21,000.

Still, it was a good start. One way and another, the young rascal in his first year of discretion exceeded a "fit and proper" expenditure by something over £100,000. It is fair to add that at next year's Leger he was, on Gully's advice, handsomely on Memnon, and got a good deal of his own back. But the road was downhill all the way. George, by common consent, took his losses with superb sang-froid, but he was hard hit. The sale of his twenty-seven hunters and hacks after the season 1825-26 realised £7,500—a huge figure in those days and indicating that only the best was good enough for him.

Racing and betting were not his only occupations. In the summer he put in several weeks a year in London, where he was found at all hours of the day at Tattersalls and of the night at Crockford's, or playing whist at the Portland. He drove his team, of course, down to Epsom and Ascot, and made London the pivotal centre of his turf campaign.

But autumn called him back to Sulby. He had shot and ridden from childhood, hunted from boyhood in the cream of that hunting country, and now lived there in great style.

In September the devoted family settled down at Sulby to a manner of life which was to set the pattern for years to come. A long, low, substantial stone-built house of a common eighteenth-century pattern, adorned with palladian columns and showing an array of large, plain windows, it was erected between 1756 and 1795, and had ample accommodation in large saloons and comfortably small rooms snugly wainscoted in carved wood.

It stood in a fine park about three miles from Welford and about seven from Harborough, in an angle of the Warwickshire and Leicestershire borders of Northamptonshire. The estate comprised some 4,500 acres.

The whole scheme of things at Sulby revolved round the comfort of the men, and the wheel was in the willing and not very competent hands of George's mother, who contrived to produce the very ideal of that kind of life which later on Soapy Sponge laid down as an ideal for bachelor fox-hunting men.

The food and wine were unexceptionable, the meals were on tap at any hour of the day or night, but these comforts were achieved with the aid of scores of unnecessary servants and with lamentable waste. Card-playing and billiards were kept up all night until it was time to change once more for the business of the day. The bachelor wing was permanently filled with resident fox-hunters, whose strings of horses filled to capacity the enormous range of stables or were billeted out in the inn stables in Welford. Billy Payne, George's younger brother, a charming youth who died in 1854 of the gout, was there, of course; so was Frank Holyoake (afterwards Sir Frank Goodericke), who unexpectedly succeeded to Sir Harry Goodericke's fortune and married George's pretty younger sister, Elizabeth, in August 1827, and thereafter turned blackleg from the spendthrift brotherhood.

There, too, was Tom Paris, who afterwards married (and perhaps rescued from a nunnery) the elder and more severe Miss Payne; and Charles Forester, and many another gay sportsman and hard rider.

A neighbour, William Wilson of Gumley, himself a minnow among the tritons of the Mytton School, has handed down a pretty picture of Mrs. Payne presiding over the revels. She was (by all accounts) the "dearest woman in the world"; "never so happy as when making those around her happy and entering into all the fun like a girl. I can see her now at a dance in the house, beating a big drum with enthusiasm."

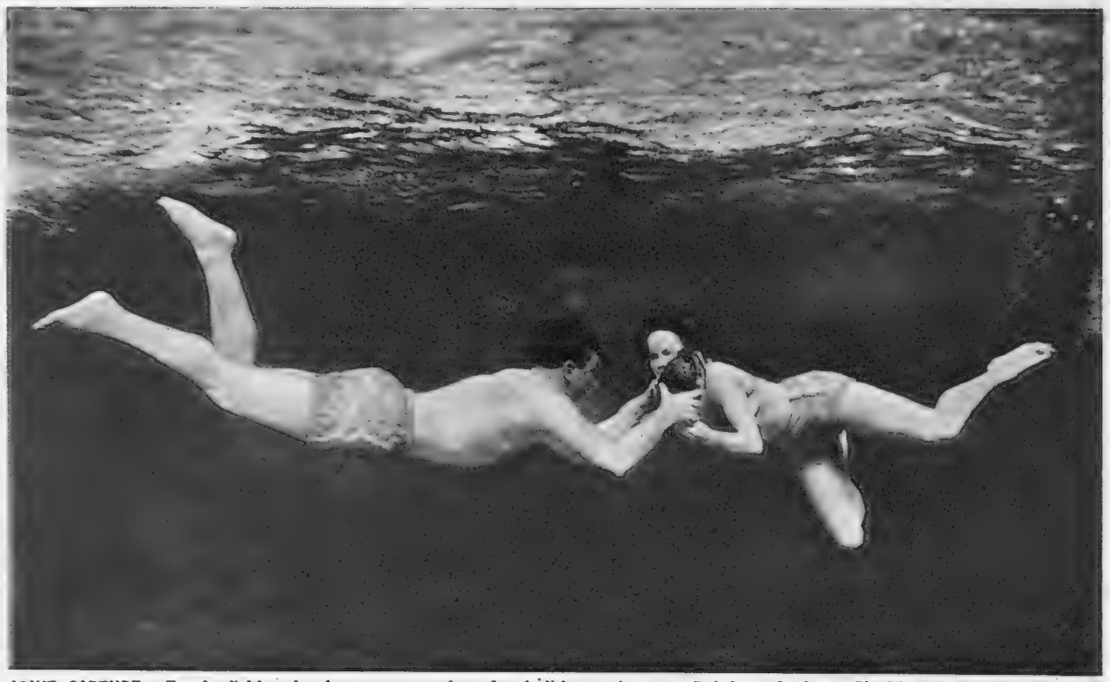
George was, of course, immensely popular in the country; such open-handed prodigality deserved no less. He was "equally respected by rich and poor." On any and every social occasion his presence was a prime necessity. At the farmers' dinner, the agricultural show, the political meeting, his impromptu speeches brought down the house, and "any time he liked he could have been returned free of expense for the County." At Althorp's retirement to the Upper House he was waited on by a deputation, but he unhesitatingly rejected a political career as "not to his taste."

What more obvious choice for the expensive post of High Sheriff! In 1826 he was duly pricked and appointed and his year of office was long remembered. Never before, or since, were judges received with such splendour at Assizes, never was such pageantry, such a turn-out of *posse comitatus*, such gilded coaches, such superb horses.

In a notable party which assembled at Lambton on October 23, 1826, for the Leger, most of the leading "legs" were included, and the company sat down to dinner thirty-seven strong. The Mæcenas of Sheriffs was of the party, and so were Holyoake, William Lambton, the Wyrvills, Wilton, Bob Grosvenor, Mark Milbank, Hedworth Williamson, Jack Mills, Captain Berkeley, Captain White, most famous of jockeys, "dear Eddard" Petre of Stapleton, the partner of Rodes Milnes, Tom Duncombe, and many more. The house was newly-lit with gas, and in the midst of their revels the gas went out. Not a candle to be had for love or money. But Creevey, who chronicles the event, leaves the impression that most of the "legs" were blind already.

But George was not the man to settle down to a dull and useful round of public duties, nor even to the social round of country-house visits. He was too comfortable at home, the limits of three first-rate hunting countries contained his cosmos, and without worrying about the troubled history of England and Europe, he was busy for twenty hours out of every twenty-four. In no other sense was he the man to settle down. Marriage had no attraction for him. He preferred variety in women as in sport, and against such distractions Cupid himself was as ineffective as any other blind boy. Those lovely young cousins of his, Mary and Fanny Brandling, the "Lights" whose radiance Creevey has chronicled, came often to Sulby to be sampled, and it is said that for Fanny's sake George was almost persuaded. It is said, too, that she loved him but was wise in her generation, and refused to marry him without a solemn bond and covenant to forsake gambling.

It was too high a price for George to pay. "He was too honourable to make a promise which he knew he could not keep."



JOINT CAPTURE: Turtle fishing is the latest pastime for holiday-makers at Rainbow Springs, Florida, the extreme clarity of the water permitting divers to sight their prey with ease. Catching a turtle with bare hands requires great accuracy, however, as it manœuvres speedily in the water and the smooth shell is often difficult to grasp

NEW PLAYS

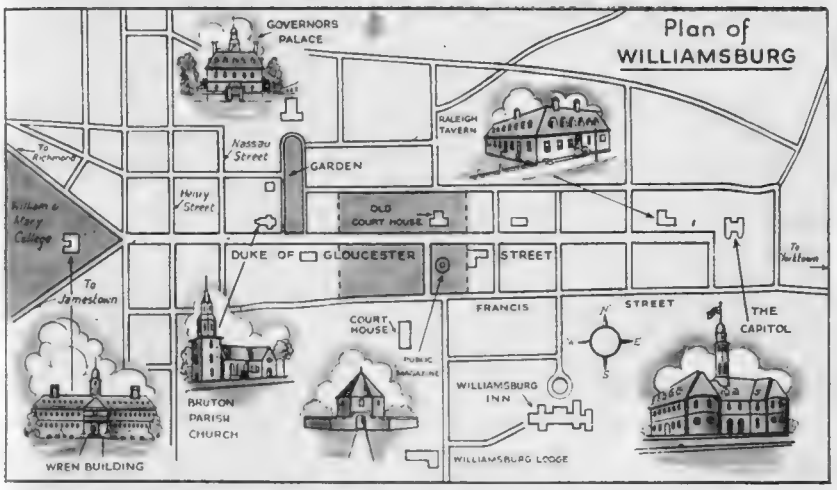
—Reviewed by PHILIP PAGE

STAGE DOOR (Saville).—If one is interested in stage and film "shop" (and there are millions who are), this should prove a worth-while show of the very light type. I enjoyed it for several additional reasons, not the least being, frankly, that there was an attractive and very large cast, almost exclusively female. For the scene is a sort of boarding-house in New York for budding stage and film stars, what little plot there is concerning their professional plans for the future. Much of the talk I found quite amusing, though I got rather tired of seeing those girls rushing up and down a staircase with enviable speed. It looks as if clever Mr. Firth Shephard has found yet another winner; I think he will be able to watch the public flocking by night, all seated in the stalls, etc. Much is due to the good performances of Miss Patricia Burke, Miss Phyllis Letts, Miss Roberta Huby and Mr. Bernard Lee.

Dear Ruth (St. James's).—Also from America comes this story of a "teen-age" girl who writes love-letters to a soldier and pretends that they are from her elder sister. An odd occupation, and it is difficult to imagine what fun she derived from it. It was not easy to avoid loathing that precocious youngster, and had not the part been played so brilliantly by Miss Margaret Barton, this rather thin comedy might have proved a bit trying. However, it is cleverly constructed, not too long, and well acted. The youngster has a nice family, with a pretty, sympathetic sister (Miss Dulcie Gray) and a pleasant, understanding father (Mr. Evelyn Roberts). They needed all that understanding and sympathy.

A Man About the House (Piccadilly).—It is surely essential that if a play is founded on a novel it should be as easily understood by those who have not read the novel as by those who have. This is not the case with this adaptation of Francis Brett Young's well-known book, which makes a fairly (but only fairly) interesting play. It took me a very long time, as a non-reader of the book, to gather that Miss Flora Robson, a middle-aged Englishwoman living in her own Italian villa, who had fallen in love with her Italian major-domo, was the object of murderous plottings by the Italian, who did not want her but did want her villa. The villain was foiled, thanks to a nice English doctor, and that is about all there is to it, except some quite witty chatter, by way of comic relief, contributed by Mr. Ernest Thesiger and Mr. Frank Tickle. Mr. Basil Sydney played the Italian most realistically.

THE RESTORED COLONIAL CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG VISITED BY MR. CHURCHILL DURING HIS AMERICAN HOLIDAY TOUR : An impression of the Governor's Paiace as it is to-day in this old city which has been largely restored to its appearance in the days when it was the capital of the British colony of Virginia. Mr. Churchill visited Williamsburg after addressing the Virginia State Assembly at Richmond—*Drawing by W. G. Whitaker*



A COLONIAL CITY BROUGHT TO LIFE : A sketch map showing the location of some of the main buildings in Williamsburg, the old colonial capital of Virginia which Mr. Churchill has just been to see. The Governor's Palace, the Raleigh Tavern and the Capitol are much as they were in the days of British rule

One thing that has particularly struck American correspondents during Mr. Churchill's visit to the United States has been his deep knowledge of American history, and it is quite understandable that he should have expressed such a keen desire to seen Williamsburg, where many of the most important pages in the social and political history of Virginia were written in the days when it was the colonial capital. To-day Williamsburg largely stands restored, and to walk down Duke of Gloucester Street, named after the ill-starred son of Queen Anne, is to walk at once into the pages of the past. Along this street were most of the shops and taverns of Williamsburg, and a gay and busy

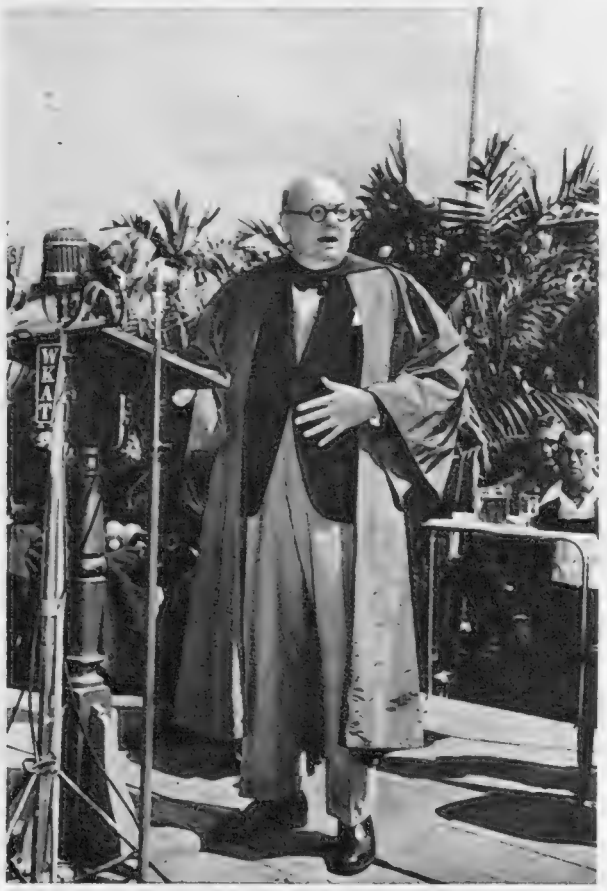
WINSTON CHURCHILL IN THE U.S.

His Visits to Florida, Fulton and Williamsburg

MR. CHURCHILL'S VIRGINIAN TOUR : A sketch map showing the situation of Richmond, where Mr. Churchill was asked to address the Virginian State Assembly last week-end, and of the old colonial city of Williamsburg

place it was in those first eighty years of the eighteenth century, when it flourished as the centre of colonial commerce and culture. After the Revolution, Williamsburg gradually sank into the somnolence of a quiet county seat and college town.

WHERE MR. CHURCHILL DELIVERED HIS "SINEWS OF PEACE" SPEECH : The Campus and Administration building of Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, to which Britain's wartime Prime Minister journeyed in company with President Truman. Although the speech was delivered to the students of a little college, it was received by a world-wide audience, who heard Mr. Churchill call for the creation of "a special relationship between the British Commonwealth and the United States as a sure prevention of war." Mr. Truman was present but made no comment. The Grecian pillars on the right of this picture have a special interest, in that students at Westminster College pass through them only twice : first on arrival as Freshmen, and, finally, when they graduate



HE PUT UP A PLEA FOR LATE STARTERS : Mr. Churchill, faced by a battery of microphones, addressing an audience of 18,000 in the Orange Bowl at Miami. He had just received the degree of doctor of laws from Miami University, and in his speech he urged returning soldiers to embrace the opportunities of education, whatever their ages

The World of Books—By Vernon Fane

MURDER AND MYSTERY, BUT NO CLIMAX

In Neil Gunn's New Novel of Life in a Scottish Fishing Village, where All are Implicated

THERE are so many double meanings in Mr. Neil Gunn's new novel, **THE KEY OF THE CHEST** (Faber. 8s. 6d.), and so great is the weight of significance put on the smallest action that one only realises after reading it that the theme is slight. The story is set in a fishing village on the coast of the Scottish Highlands. The large house of the place, and the estate, are owned by Michael, a young, talented and highly nervous man with a passion for photography.

He has as his guest, a man older than himself, cynical and intelligent; one Mr. Gwynn. Michael also has an admiration for the village doctor, a man who is himself more brilliant than his purely local work demands, and who is at least half-way in love with Flora, daughter of the austere local minister. Flora herself, though, is of softer stuff, and has been deeply in love with Charlie, brother of Dougald, an aloof, bad-tempered fisherman.

Those, then, are the characters, and the story itself opens with some promise on a night of a great storm, during which Dougald, for one, is forced to shelter in another house and only returns to his own place in the early morning. A few hours later he is back, with the news that an unknown and probably foreign sailor has been rescued from the storm by his brother, Charlie, but the man has been found to be dead when carried to the cottage.

From that moment begins a chain of rumour and conjecture, binding Charlie's providential presence to a possibility of murder, and reviving old histories of feuds and love-affairs in which the whole village finally become involved. In the end, and after countless circumlocutions, Charlie and his Flora are able to leave the village, to make a life of their own far away from the tongues of gossip. The murder-that-was-not-a-murder has been cleared up, but they both know that its backlash will affect them as long as they remain in the village.

The setting itself is exciting, and the idea of a story, implicating an entire village, has immense possibilities, but I can't feel that they have been realised in the novel. It is even difficult to guess the author's real intention, since, as a mystery or a murder story, it lacks climax or surprise, and as a study of emotions it concentrates chiefly on the unpleasant. Two little boy poachers are the exception to this pervading climate of passions and distrust, and they come as an effective relief.

The happiest and the gayest book of the week, or of the month, is **ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN** (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.), a book so full of good spirits and originality that it should be required reading in all the Ministries from which austerity proceeds in an endless grey stream. The authors are George and Helen Waite Papashvily, she an American and he a Georgian, though there any resemblance with Mr. Stalin ends.

Mr. Papashvily came to the United States from Russia twenty years ago thinking of America as a place where anything can happen: he has not changed his mind since then. His approach to his life there, which was often extremely hard, precarious, and to a less volatile soul discouraging, is the thing that lifts the whole story into a realm of its own, a realm where people, in his words, are "happy and full of prance," and where amiable oddities are the rule. Read this, it will give you some hours of gaiety that no newspaper can dispel.

After a strenuous journey Mr. Alaric Jacob, a newspaper man and war correspondent, reached Moscow in 1944, the place "where, at heart, I wanted to be," he writes, and, from a frozen, January landing at Molotovsk, he goes with his journalist wife, Miss Iris Barry, to Moscow. His book of experiences, **WINDOW IN MOSCOW** (Collins. 15s.), is well worth reading, not as an unbiased report, but as a piece of genuine and lively recording, with a personal and political slant that makes it by no means dull.

For instance, "Moscow must be the only capital in the world where the diplomats are, as a whole, worse informed than the newspaper correspondents and where they openly acknowledge it by asking the correspondents to give them information." The British and American ambassadors, however, would seem to be in a class by themselves as far as this is concerned, since they saw Molotov and Vishinsky quite often, and "Stalin now and then."

In fact, such were Sir Archibald Clark Kerr's contacts with the Kremlin that, during the preparations for the Second Front, "When the great moment came all he had to do was to pick up his quill pen and write, in English, just four words, and send them to Stalin by messenger. The words were: 'We are off to-night.'"

Mr. Jacob has much to say, in his easy, readable style, about the modern Russia he has seen—its everyday life, its opera, its art and its ballet. He is, to put it mildly, a Russophile, and it is no surprise to find him writing that "we Anglo-Saxons would be foolish not to try to understand the strength which the Soviet system has imparted to the Russian people and to see what we can gain from their experience." And later adds that "If we are finally persuaded to take the same path as Russia, it will be through the power of their example, not through the influence of their propaganda."

Striking words, at this particular moment of the world's affairs.

To a Londoner like myself, one of the most fascinating of this week's books must be Mr. John Summerson's **GEORGIAN LONDON** (Pleiades. 21s.), an excellently produced volume with both photographs, drawings and ground plans to illustrate one of the greatest periods of English architecture. "It was not of profound consequence to architecture," writes the author, "that George I ascended the throne in 1714 or that George IV died in 1830, but for the purposes of this book the dates are singularly convenient. They allow us to attach the word 'Georgian' to a period for which other, more significant merestones will do as well, while suggesting no equally simple and memorable inscription."

Nearly forty drawings and plans and eighty reproductions of photographs and contemporary engravings make this book one of the most remarkable records of a half-vanished London that I have had the good fortune to see. The author has been in a position to know the fate, during the past six years, of most of the buildings that he describes, and there is an added poignancy, and consequently an added value, in the captions of the all too numerous photographs marked "Destroyed by flying bomb, 1944," or simply, "Destroyed 1941."

EXETER PHŒNIX has been published by the Architectural Press at 10s., and has been composed by Mr. Thomas Sharp as a plan for rebuilding the city that was so badly damaged in the "Baedeker" raid of May 1942. Very properly, for a book of this kind that is designed to create interest in a special problem, and then to advise on the solution of that problem, the volume is extensively illustrated with good, un-arty photographs for the layman, and with maps and ground-plans of a fascinating complexity for both the uninitiated and the expert in the matter.

Thirty-six of Mr. John Pudney's poems have been printed in a small book which has no advantage, except possibly compactness, over the books of his verse that have already been published. **SELECTED POEMS** (John Lane. 3s. 6d.) consists in the main of poems that I have read before, heard in a broadcast or in one of the best of the English films of recent years, and there are also six new poems.

An *Elegy for Tom Roding* is perhaps the most considerable poem in the little volume, but my choice is still for *Missing*, and for its final lines:

> For Smith, our brother,
> Only son of loving mother,
> The ocean lifted, stirred,
> Leaving no word.

In the main they are war poems, written during the war and from its personal experience.

A DEPTFORD BAKER AND HIS UNUSUAL HOBBY: Mr. G. W. Edwards spends much of his spare time making historical models, a selection of which is seen on the table in front of him. His work was recently inspected by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, who expressed great admiration at Mr. Edwards' accuracy of detail. Some of his models are used at the Geffrye Museum, Shoreditch, in order to illustrate lectures on costume

HE SPECIALISES IN BATTLE-DRESS (OLD STYLE): Mr. George Ratcliffe with some of the suits of armour he displays on the pavement outside his antique shop at Kelvedon, Essex. He finds a big demand for these wares, particularly among buyers for the American antique market

When the Sailor Goes Ashore

To re-establish the hostels destroyed by enemy action and to increase the amenities for British sailors overseas, the British Sailors' Society is at present making an urgent appeal for funds, and has issued an elaborately illustrated booklet calling attention to its variegated work. The missionary work of the society is well known, and its canteens, libraries and institutes in every part of the globe are in greater requirement than ever. Donations should be sent to the Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Sykes, P.C., hon. treasurer, The British Sailors' Society, 680, Commercial Road, London, E.14

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EDWARD JONES is what is known as the "stageman" at a limestone quarry on the coast of North Wales. It is his duty to supervise the berthing and loading of coastwise steamers which call at the little jetty to carry limestone away to the chemical works, where it is used for making domestic washing-soda or soda ash and caustic for Industry. Mr. Jones was born in 1883 at the Welsh coast village of Llandulas and lives in a cottage on the shore 40 yards from the jetty. His whole working career of 42 years has been passed there, except for a break during the war of 1914-18 when he served as an Air Mechanic (First-class) in the Royal Naval Air Service. For 30 years he was a member of the crew of the Llandulas Lifeboat and his hobbies of boating and fishing keep him more afloat than ashore. In 1923 he took over his present job from his father who had held it for 35 years. Since then he has seen some 7,900 vessels loaded with over 3,000,000 tons of limestone. He has been responsible for each one of these being berthed safely in spite of difficult tides, winter gales and wartime black-out. Ned Jones is a cheerful man-of-the-sea. His lifelong association with the coast and the expert knowledge of the local tides and currents gained during his years as lifeboatman and fisherman fit him exceptionally for his duties. He has three daughters but no son to carry on the job which he and his father have held so successfully for over half a century.

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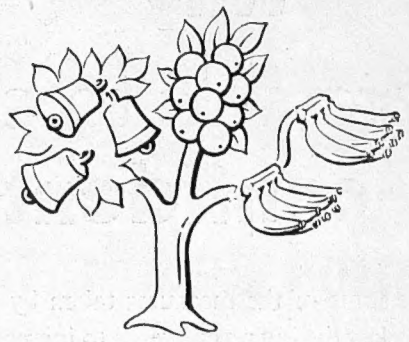

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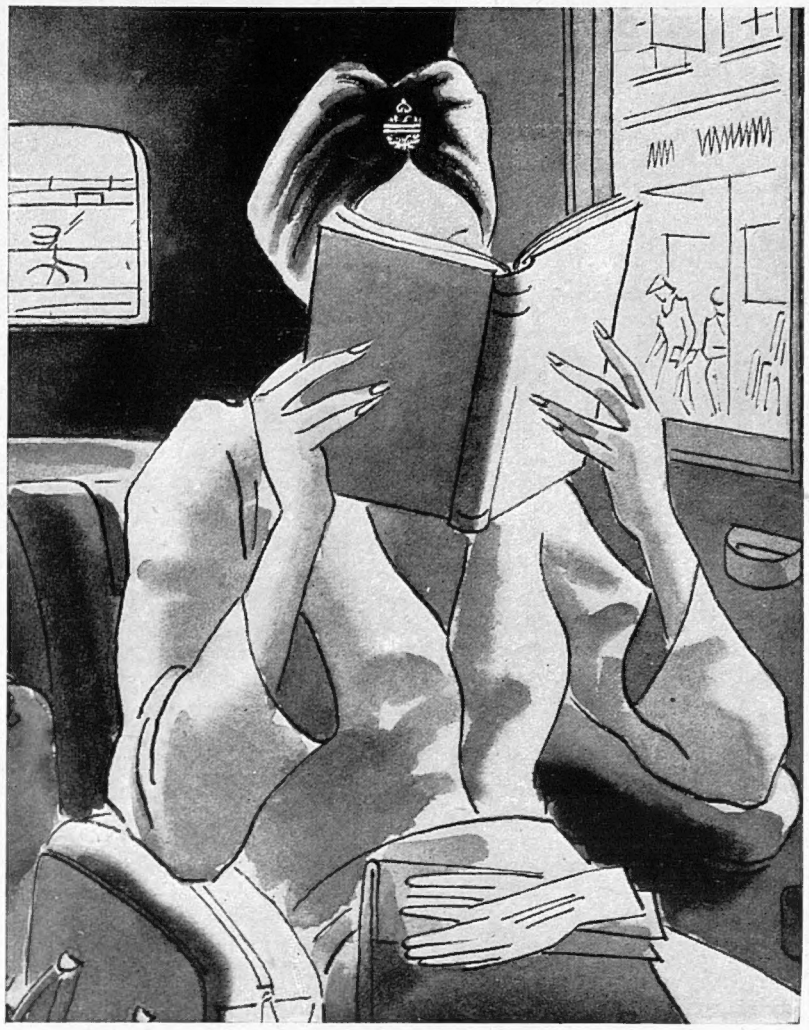

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